

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Rowland (Reg. No. 32,674) on June 2, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

For claim 26, line 2, insert --and the enlarged image field is formed-- between "vertexes" and "by".

Claims 26 should recite

The method according to claim 24, wherein: said astroid-shaped cycloid scan pattern is formed with four vertexes and the enlarged image field is formed by generating and combining four partial images.

For claim 27, line 2, insert --and the enlarged image field is formed-- between "vertexes" and "by".

Claims 27 should recite

The method according to claim 24, wherein: said astroid-shaped cycloid scan pattern is formed with four vertexes and the enlarged image field is formed by

generating and combining four partial images, said combined four partial images having overlapping regions.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 24 recites, "each of said partial images is generated, during said reversal of movement at said vertexes of said astroid-shaped scan pattenr, for a predetermined recording time to limit unsharpness to less than a size of a pixel."

The above features, as explicitly recited, in combination with the other elements of the claim are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record. While the examiner believes a combination of US 6,639,625 to Ishida et al. and "Risley Prism Scan Patterns" by Marshall as presented in the Non-Final Office action at best teaches obtaining four partial images at the vertexes of an astroid-shaped scan pattern obtained by rotating two refractive prisms, the combination neither discloses nor suggests a predeterminate recording time to limit unsharpness.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANTHONY MACKOWEY whose telephone number is (571)272-7425. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Matthew C Bella/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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